

Hobbies

Old bills valuable—as long as they're new

By Roger Boye

This week's column answers more questions about coins and paper money.

Q—For several years I've owned a \$1,000 gold certificate, series 1928. Does it have value other than the face amount?

M.S., Chicago

A—A popular catalog suggests that the item you describe would sell for \$1,250 in "fine condition," \$1,600 in "very fine" and \$3,000 in "crisp, uncirculated." The government stopped issuing large-denomination bills (\$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000) in 1969.

All such bills in private hands remain legal tender, although the Treasury no longer redeems gold certificates for gold coins or bullion.

Q—While going through my late father's coin collection, I came across a 1960-D Lincoln cent marked "1960-DD." I checked the coin with a magnifying glass and the "D" definitely is doubled. Is this rare?

B.H., Justice

A—No. Until recently, government workers engraved mint marks into each coin die "by hand," striking a punch two or three times. A doubled letter was created if the punch moved—

even slightly—between strikings.

Author Alan Herbert says that a Lincoln cent with a doubled or tripled mint mark would retail for at least 50 cents. The die that made your coin probably produced a million others, all of which would have the same doubled mint mark.



Want to know what your old coins are worth? Send your queries to Roger Boye, Room 400, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a personal reply, and allow at least three weeks for the answer.